



AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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Space 'Explorer'

Facts About Satellite

IN the period of a little more than a week since America launched its first earth satellite "Explorer," the world has learned these facts about our space vehicle:

It is far lighter than the Soviet sputniks. Explorer weighs slightly over 30 pounds, compared to 184 pounds for Sputnik I and approximately 1,120 pounds for Sputnik II.

It is a slender tube, nearly 7 feet long. Russian Sputnik I was a sphere about 2 feet in diameter, and the exact dimensions of rocket-shaped Sputnik II have not been disclosed.

Explorer travels farther from the earth than Russia's first 2 "moons" have gone. Its greatest distance has been at least 1,700 miles and perhaps considerably more. Sputnik I reached a maximum height of 560 miles, and Sputnik II has risen 1,056 miles.

American scientists hope that our satellite will stay aloft much longer than either of Russia's 1957 space vehicles. Sputnik I fell into the atmosphere and burned early in January, after circling the globe for 3 months. Sputnik II (launched November 3) may fall within the next several weeks. Authorities disagree on how long the Explorer will remain in space. Some predict that it will stay for several years.

Like the sputniks, our satellite is a "flying laboratory." Its radio transmitters are sending us a great deal of information about conditions in space. Some observers expect our "moon," despite its light weight, to tell more than have the sputniks.

The Jupiter-C rocket, with which the U. S. Army launched the Explorer satellite, isn't the same as the 1,500-mile Jupiter military missile which the Army is developing. But many observers believe that the Army, having succeeded in launching America's first earth satellite, may now receive a stepped-up role in the missile field.

What is Explorer's significance so far as our weapons race with the Soviet Union is concerned? Dr. Wernher von Braun, famous rocket expert who played a leading role in developing the Jupiter-C missile, points out that the Russians have launched space vehicles many times as heavy as ours. Even if we work hard, he says, it will take us 5 years to catch up with the Soviets in rocketry.

Nevertheless, Explorer has given much-needed encouragement to the American people, and has boosted our prestige abroad. As hardly anything else could have done, it symbolizes the fact that we are "still in the race" to develop better rockets for military and scientific purposes.

After commenting on this point, however, the Washington Star adds the following: "The important thing now . . . is to steel ourselves against a slackening of effort after the current wave of jubilation subsides."



PHILIP GENDREAU

OIL WELL in Lake Maracaibo. Petroleum is the leading product of Venezuela.

Future of Venezuela

Military Council and Political Leaders Try to Build a Sound Government After Ouster of Dictator

A NEW struggle to end dictatorship is under way in Venezuela. If the struggle succeeds, the South American nation may be able to build its first lasting democracy in over 125 years of stormy history.

Venezuelans could fail in their effort to establish real freedom. They could do so even before you read this story. Power in their country rests with the armed forces, and military leaders could work to keep control of government. They have done so in the past.

The United States has a real interest in a peaceable solution of Venezuela's troubles. That land is a leading South American customer for U. S. machinery, automobiles, and agricultural products.

We, in turn, buy most of Venezuela's oil output. She ranks second to the United States in world production of this vital mineral. In recent years, we have also been buying large amounts of iron ore from newly developed mines in that country.

U. S. companies have done much to help develop resources in Venezuela. Our investments there now total some 3 billion dollars. Most of the money has been put into the oil and iron ore industries, but U. S. firms have a substantial stake in factories, too.

Our country can more easily keep up trade with Venezuela and safe-

guard business investments there if that country has sound government. Moreover, as a free people, we sympathize with the efforts of others to win freedom—and wish them success.

Hope for government by the Venezuelan people rose when Dictator Marcos Pérez Jiménez was overthrown less than 3 weeks ago. He had ruled as President, with army support, since 1952.

Secretly organized bands of workers, college students, and probably also some high school youths turned against the dictator on January 21. The ringing of church bells gave the signal for revolt. Crowds, both men and women, pushed through the streets of cities shouting "down with dictatorship." Soldiers joined with the civilians, and over 100 persons were killed in 2 days of fighting against secret police.

Pérez Jiménez had once boasted that he could be overthrown only by death. Nevertheless, when it was clear that he no longer had force to support him, the dictator quit. Around 3 a.m. on January 23, he fled by air to the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean Sea.

A military junta (council) took over the government. Admiral Wolfgang Larrazabal, commander of the Venezuelan navy, became first president of

(Continued on page 2)

Political Setups Of Free Nations

Democracies Have Established Many Ways of Running Their Governments

AMERICA has a situation today, and has had it on many past occasions, wherein the President belongs to one political party while Congress is controlled by his opponents.

There are many other democratic nations—Britain and Canada, for instance—where such a division would be practically impossible. A *parliamentary* system prevails in these countries.

Under it, the Prime Minister or other chief executive officer is chosen by the legislative body, and so—naturally—he represents the strongest political group within the parliament. If the chief executive gets into a major disagreement with the lawmakers, he either resigns or calls upon the voters to choose a new legislative body.

In the United States, by contrast, the President and our congressmen are elected to serve for definite lengths of time. The Chief Executive *cannot* call for a new congressional election whenever he pleases. Congress, if it feels that it has sufficient cause, can drive a President from office by impeachment and conviction, but no Chief Executive has ever been removed in this way.

Some people feel that the United States would be better off if its Constitution provided a simple and regular means of settling political differences between Congress and the White House. They favor a parliamentary system such as Britain has. Most Americans, though, believe that our present type of government is safer and better in the long run.

Each arrangement, of course, has its strong and weak points. Democratic nations have developed a number of ways in which their governments can be run. The most important point, in each case, is that the voters have final authority.

It is worthwhile to compare our form of government with the various parliamentary arrangements. Such a comparison helps us gain a better understanding of how the different systems operate.

In America. The check-and-balance pattern of our own government was purposely created by the men who drew up the U. S. Constitution. They established separate branches—executive, legislative, and judicial. These branches are supposed to check one another so that each is kept from becoming too tyrannical.

Unless there is a reasonable degree of cooperation among the different arms of government, however, little can be accomplished. If the President is at odds with Congress, he can't win approval for the new laws that he be-

(Continued on page 6)

Land in Revolt

(Continued from page 1)

the council. He had naval and air force backing. The army, which had been the chief support of Pérez Jiménez, was allotted a minor role.

Admiral Larrazabal promised that the people would be permitted to vote in free elections. Sometime this year, he said, they may choose representatives to write a new constitution. Then, in 1959, they may be allowed to elect a President. Larrazabal assured Venezuelans that he didn't want to stay in politics and hoped to return to his naval job as quickly as possible.

Huge crowds celebrated the promises of elections to come. Political parties, which had long been unable to operate openly, joined hands to help organize the new administration. They were headed by Fabricio Ojeda, 31-year-old newspaperman who took part in organizing the revolt against Pérez Jiménez. Other political leaders went home from exile in the United States and elsewhere to seek a place in the new government.

Great dangers remain, however. Leaders of various groups are cooperating for the moment. They could easily quarrel in a contest for power and upset plans for free government.

Although the communists are small in number, they're trying to spread their influence. Admiral Larrazabal's junta could use Red activity as an excuse to delay free government.

Army's Role?

The Venezuelan army of around 10,000 men may well be stronger than both the navy and air force combined. Army leaders worked with the new junta after Pérez Jiménez fled, but many doubtless hoped for return of the dictator who had granted them many privileges. Such army officers could start a new revolution.

Even if all goes well, there are bound to be difficulties in setting up a free government. Of Venezuela's 6,000,000 people, more than half cannot read or write. Very few among the entire population have firsthand knowledge of how to organize a democracy. Considerable time must elapse before Venezuelans will demonstrate that they know how to govern.

Should real, lasting freedom thrive in Venezuela, a miracle will have taken place indeed. The South American country has existed under at least 20 constitutions. It has had more than 50 revolutions of serious importance,



MODERN HOUSING is provided for more than 2,300 families by this slum clearance project in Caracas, Venezuela. Pérez Jiménez tried to modernize his country, but his government was dictatorial.

and an uncounted number of minor disturbances. It has been ruled by military men most years since 1830.

Surprisingly, in view of its history of troubles, Venezuela is sometimes called the birthplace of South American independence. It is so called because it was among the first of Spanish territories in the New World to rebel against colonial rule—and then to help others to seek independence.

Columbus had discovered Venezuela on his third trip to the Americas in 1498, and Spanish settlements followed quickly. Probably encouraged by the success of our revolt against England, Venezuelans turned against government by Spain in 1796. That uprising failed, but others succeeded.

Simón Bolívar, named the George Washington of South America by some of his people, led Venezuela to independence in the 1800's. He also worked for the freedom of territories that are now Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador. These lands and Venezuela formed a union and were free of Spanish rule by 1823.

Bolívar had dreamed of a United States of South America, but his union had fallen apart by 1830. Venezuela declared itself a republic—and, as such, gained its first dictator, José Antonio Páez.

One of the most powerful of a long line of dictators was Juan Vicente Gómez. As a reward for helping win a revolution, he had been advanced to the vice presidency by 1908. While his President was on a trip to Europe, Gómez took over the government.

Usually as President—but sometimes only as head of the armed forces—Gómez ruled for 27 years almost to the day—until his death in December 1935. He had spies everywhere, and even paid sons to report on political activity by families. Enemies were executed without mercy. Free speech did not exist. No newspaper dared oppose the dictator's actions.

Wealthy Dictator

Gómez did build some of the first good roads in Venezuela; he undertook to better the health of the people; and he kept his country at peace. Money from the sale of oil was just beginning to pour into the country, and there was considerable prosperity for many. Gómez himself is said to have rolled up a fortune of millions of dollars.

In the 1940's after Gómez had died, there was a fairly quiet period and some freedom for the people. Under a new constitution, the voters elected Rómulo Gallegos as their President in December 1947.

Gallegos, a well-known writer who had appealed to the labor vote, took office in February 1948. He promised to represent the nation fairly, but he soon offended minority parties in the congress and irritated army men.

In November, 9 months after he took office, Gallegos was ousted. An army junta, with Pérez Jiménez as one of its members, took over the government. Dictatorship had returned to the land.

In 1952, the junta decided it needed

a more democratic appearance. Confident of victory, it set an election for November 30. First returns showed the vote going *heavily against* the army. Radio reports of the ballot counting were quickly stopped. Two days after the election, the army junta announced it had won at the polls—and that Pérez Jiménez had been named President. The army never made known the real vote total, which almost certainly showed it had lost.

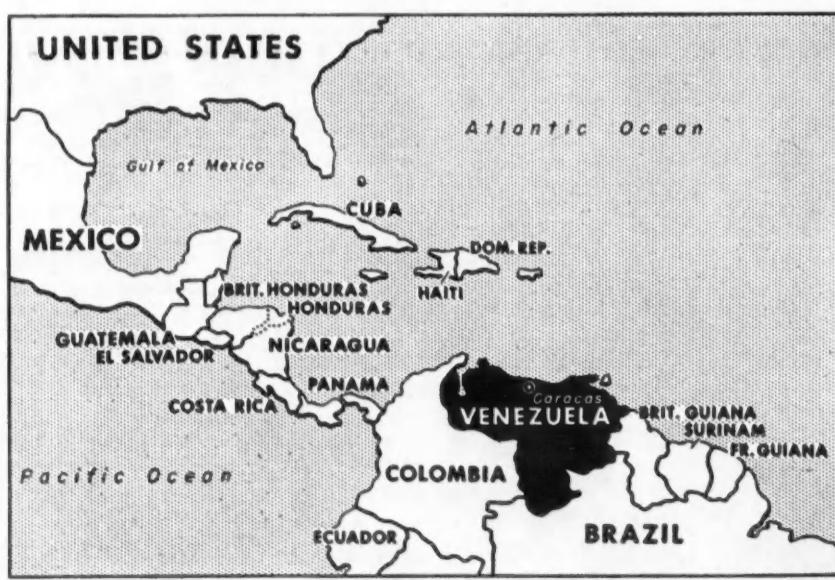
As dictator, Pérez Jiménez showed many qualities of the earlier Gómez. The new Venezuelan boss used secret police to hunt down his enemies. He is said to have jailed hundreds of thousands of persons during the last few weeks of his rule. He angered many by arresting a newspaper editor of the Roman Catholic faith, which is the religion of most Venezuelans. Last December, he controlled an election to make sure he would win a second term in office—and by January 1 was faced with the troubles that led to his ouster.

Pérez Jiménez had always frankly admitted that he wasn't popular with the people. He argued that they weren't ready for democracy, and that they needed "halters" to keep them out of trouble. He chose to give them dictatorship.

As had Gómez, the modern-day Pérez Jiménez relied on public works to keep the people quiet. He used income from oil for roads, new housing for workers, and modernization of cities. He opened up new land for farming and installed up-to-date machinery. By increasing agricultural output somewhat, he lessened the need for large imports of food.

Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, is a spectacular example of the public works that Pérez Jiménez supported. Founded in 1567, the city is among the oldest in South America. Lying in a valley and ringed by mountains, it has a springlike climate with flowers blooming throughout the year.

Churches and narrow streets of



VENEZUELA is one-third larger than Texas. Its population is about 6,000,000.

DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

colonial times still exist in Caracas, but much of the capital, which has a population of over 1,000,000, is new. Twin skyscrapers reach toward the sky in one part of Caracas, and beneath the buildings are parking lots and a bus station. Broad avenues lead past a new university, to a Sears Roebuck store and fashionable shops, to hotels and apartment buildings.

There is a new concert stadium. There is a large industrial area with tire, automobile, and food-processing plants. Once the trip by car to the capital's seaport and air terminal took an hour over a winding, hilly, dangerous road. Today, the trip takes 20 minutes over a new highway.

A second example of modernization is in the Lake Maracaibo region, which produces most of the nation's oil. Indian villages, with houses built on stilts, once dotted shores of the lake. Today, they have been largely replaced by towns for oil workers and engineers. Huge derricks, used to pump oil from beneath the water, rise above the lake itself.

The city of Maracaibo, with 390,000 people, is second only to Caracas in size. Unlike the capital, Maracaibo is hot and damp. With an average temperature of 85 degrees—and higher readings much of the day—Maracaibo is said to be hotter more of the time than any other South American city. It has new buildings and parks.

A stranger in Venezuelan cities might easily decide that the country was very prosperous. Many Venezuelans certainly have become wealthy. The average income per person is \$552 a year, and is higher than that of any other South American land. A prosperous face and income figures do not, however, tell the whole story.

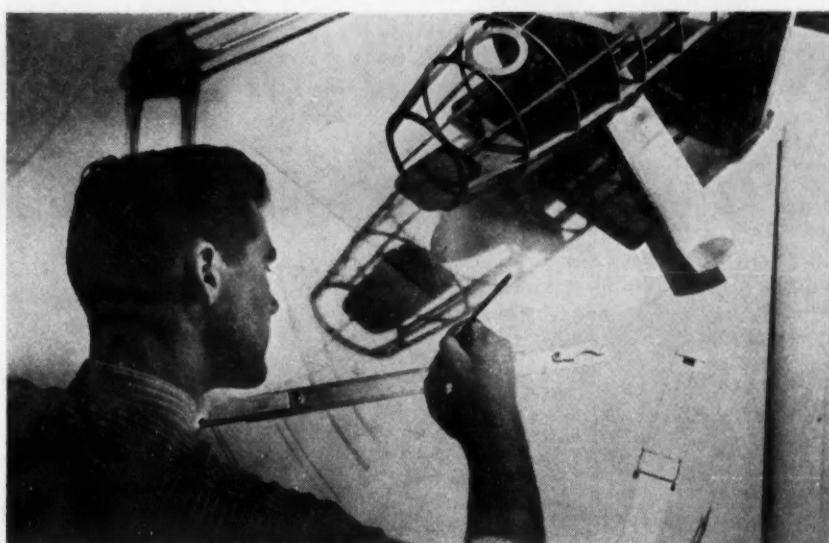
With an area of 352,143 square miles, Venezuela is about a third larger than Texas. Most of the people live in northern parts of the country, which is generally mountainous—except for lowlands along the coast of the Caribbean Sea. Over



PÉREZ JIMÉNEZ
Ousted Venezuelan dictator

half of the country, the southern area, is made up of plateaus covered with thick forests. This region has never been thoroughly explored. Along the Orinoco River are hot plains where cattle are raised.

The people in these differing regions are mostly of mixed European and Indian blood. About a fifth are white. Negro and Indian populations are comparatively small. The great majority of Venezuelans are poor farmers who raise coffee, cacao, sugar, and wheat, and live in shabby homes. The show of prosperity seen in the cities has not reached them in any marked degree. —By TOM HAWKINS



ENGINEERS are in demand today in the airplane industry and many other fields

A Career for Tomorrow

Nation Needs Engineers

"I'm doing secret work on long-range missiles at a desert proving ground."

"I'm employed in Maracaibo, Venezuela, drilling for oil under the sea."

"I'm working in a research laboratory of a paint industry in Delaware."

These are a few of the answers that engineering graduates gave at a college reunion not long ago when asked the question: "What are you doing these days?" The answers of the graduates indicate that engineering is a broad field which includes many different types of work. Here, in brief, are some of the 20 or more different branches of work in this field:

The aeronautical engineer works mainly on aircraft, missiles, and other similar projects. He is concerned with all phases of planning, developing, manufacturing, and testing airborne devices.

The chemical engineer takes the discoveries of research chemists and puts them to everyday uses in industrial plants. He may work with a great variety of products, including plastics, petroleum, rubber, or even food.

The civil engineer plans and supervises the construction of roads, bridges, buildings, dams, tunnels, and other similar projects.

The electrical engineer builds and maintains facilities for generating and transmitting electricity. He also works with communications, such as radio, television, telephone, and so on.

The mechanical engineer's field is machinery, such as automobile and airplane engines or atomic reactors. He designs, constructs, and tests all types of mechanical equipment.

There are also metallurgical engineers who work with metals, mining engineers, and others.

Qualifications. If you choose this field, you should have a liking for and a thorough understanding of mathematics. This subject is one of the basic tools of engineers and you will not get far without mastering it.

You will also need the kind of imagination that enables you to visualize the details that go into carrying out a large project. Finally, you must have the executive ability required to organize the job and supervise the many people who may work under you.

Training. Take courses in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, chemistry, physics, and mechanical drawing in high school. Next, you should plan

on getting a degree from an accredited engineering school. For many of the top jobs in the field, an advanced engineering degree is essential.

Earnings. Beginners usually earn between \$4,800 and \$6,000 a year. Successful engineers are extremely well paid, and may get as much as \$25,000 or more a year. The average income for engineers is around \$8,000.

Employment outlook. Jobs are plentiful and are expected to be so for a number of years to come. Engineers are in heavy demand by civilian as well as defense industries.

About two-thirds of the engineers are employed in private industry. Almost all manufacturing plants, as well as construction, communications, and transportation firms, employ persons in this profession. About a fifth of the engineers work for federal, state, and local government agencies. Most of the others are either in business for themselves, or work as teachers and research specialists in engineering schools.

Though most engineers are men, more and more women are becoming successful in this field.

Further information. Write to the National Society of Professional Engineers, 2029 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. For information on jobs available with the federal government, get in touch with the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D.C. —By ANTON BERLE

Pronunciations

Anastasio Somoza—ä-näs-tä'syō sō-mō'sä

Carlos Castillo Armas—kär'lōs kă-stēl'-yō är'mäs

Ekrem Akalin—ä-krēm ä-kă-lin

Fabricio Ojeda—fă-brē'syō ö-hă'dă

Gamal Abdel Nasser—gă-mă'l' äb-dĕl năs'ĕr

Getulio Vargas—zhē-tōō'lyōo văr'gus

Gustavo Rojas Pinilla—goōs-tă'vō rō-hăs pi-nĕl'yă

Jacobo Arbenz Guzman—hă-kō'bō är-bĕn'z gōōs-mă'n'

José Antonio Páez—hō-ză' än-tō'nyō pă'ës

José Antonio Remón—hō-ză' än-tō'nyō ră-mōn'

Juan Perón—hwān pē-rawn'

Juan Vicente Gómez—hwān vē-săñ'tă gō'măs

Magloire—măg-lwär'

Marcos Pérez Jiménez—măr'kōs pér'ĕz hē-mă'nĕs

Rómulo Gallegos—raw'mōō-lō gă-yĕ'gōs

Simón Bolívar—sē-mōn' bō-lé'văr'

Wolfgang Larrazabal—wolf'gang lä'răz'bă'l

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 7, column 3.

1. The authorities had to deal with an *anomalous* (ă-nōm'ū-lüs) situation in the past year. (a) inflexible, unchanged (b) irregular, abnormal (c) unpleasant, sad (d) difficult, complex.

2. The voters were influenced by his *bucolic* (bew-kōl'ik) simplicity. (a) rural, rustic (b) comic, clownish (c) gentle, shy (d) oratorical.

3. The jury became aware of the *feigned* (fănd') sympathy of the witness for the defendant. (a) lack of (b) pretended (c) deep (d) genuine.

4. His reputation as an *iconoclast* (i-kōn'ō-klaſt) was widely known. (a) a religious fanatic (b) one who believes in the worship of idols (c) one who attacks the beliefs of others.

5. The critics of the government attacked its recent *expropriation* (ĕks-prō-prī-ă'shün) of private property. (a) giving away (b) taking away (c) buying (d) selling.

6. It was not long before his ideas made him a political *heretic* (hĕr'ĕtik) in his country. (a) leader (b) outcast (c) disbeliever (d) prisoner.

7. He was afraid his plan would suffer in comparison with the other one when the 2 were *juxtaposed* (jük'stū-pōzd). (a) put into action (b) placed side by side (c) voted upon.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell name of the lower house of the West German legislature.

1. Capital of New York State.

2. A President may be unable to carry out his programs if an unfriendly Congress, which has "power of the _____" withholds funds.

3. The sun produces its energy by _____ particles of gaseous substances.

4. Simón Bolívar worked for the _____ of Venezuela in the 1800's.

5. France's chief executive is called _____.

6. _____ and Egypt are planning a union of their 2 lands.

7. Communism emphasizes the _____ rather than the individual.

8. Capital of Venezuela.

9. Monarch (2 words) who signed the Magna Carta in 1215.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
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Last Week

HORIZONTAL: Sun Yat-sen. VERTICAL: 1. industry; 2. caucuses; 3. Open Door; 4. Cheyenne; 5. Taiwan; 6. retired; 7. Boy Scout; 8. Guatemala; 9. Canton.

The Story of the Week

Egyptian-Syrian Union

There was shouting and dancing in the streets of Cairo, Egypt, and Damascus, Syria, when the 2 nations announced plans to unite under a single government. But there was also concern over this move among Arabs throughout the Middle East.

The new country is to be called the United Arab State. Its capital will be in Cairo, the present seat of the Egyptian government. All political parties, except for one that's sponsored by Egypt's President Gamal Nasser, are to be forbidden. Nasser is to become the top leader.

Actually, many problems must still be worked out before the union be-



tween the 2 countries becomes final. For one thing, the voters of both lands are supposed to vote on the matter.

If the Egyptian-Syrian union becomes final, the new country will have a population of 28,000,000, and a total area of 457,227 square miles—about the size of Texas, California, and South Carolina combined (see map).

Leaders of both Egypt and Syria—particularly those of Syria—have long campaigned for the United Arab State. In recent months, the 2 lands have cooperated on trade and money matters. Their armed forces were put under a single command a year ago. Both sides have also obtained arms and economic aid from Russia.

Meanwhile, some Arab and western leaders fear that the Egyptian-Syrian union might cause new trouble for the Middle East. The United Arab State, for instance, might bring pressure to bear on neighboring Arab countries to join the union. Even last week, plans were under way to include the small Middle Eastern country of Yemen (not shown on map).

In some cases, efforts to expand the new nation might result in armed clashes between Soviet-equipped Egyptian-Syrian forces and the troops of other Arab lands which look to us for aid.

Moreover, if the union of Egypt and Syria becomes strong enough militarily, it may become increasingly aggressive toward Israel.

Legislative Bodies

Our Congress, as we know, has 2 houses—the Senate and the House of Representatives—which have nearly equal lawmaking powers. Many other democratic countries also have 2-house legislatures. However, in many of these, the real power to make laws is

in the hands of a single legislative branch, and the government often operates under the *parliamentary* plan (see story which begins on page 1).

Britain's House of Commons is that country's principal lawmaking body. It enacts legislation and chooses the Prime Minister from among its membership.

The French National Assembly is the chief legislative body of France. It votes on the choice of Premier, who is the nation's principal executive officer.

In West Germany, the leading lawmaking group is the Bundestag. It makes the country's laws and chooses the Chancellor, whose job is like that of a prime minister.

The Japanese Diet, or legislature, is dominated by the powerful House of Representatives. That body chooses the Prime Minister from among its membership and enacts the country's laws.

Television

Do you know the origin of winds, clouds, rain, thunder and lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes? You will get a chance to see how these and other dramatic forces of nature are born if you turn your TV dial to NBC's latest production of the Bell System science series—"The Unchained Goddess"—Wednesday, February 12, at 9:00 p.m., EST.

This color film shows how scientists study, analyze, and forecast the weather. Among other things, it explains how to read complicated weather maps and to use this information in predicting the weather.

"The Unchained Goddess" headlines actor-director Richard Carlson and scientist Dr. Frank Baxter. In addition, a number of cartoon characters—Meteora, the goddess of weather; Boreas of the winds; Cirrus, the cloud painter; and others—will appear in the show.

Unlimited Power

The sun, as we know, is a gigantic power plant that produces heat and



SCENE from "The Unchained Goddess," TV program about the weather. The cartoon character, an apothecary (druggist), holds a jar of air, water vapor, and dust—the ingredients scientists say make up clouds. In the cooler, the water vapor will condense around the dust particles to form tiny, artificial clouds.

light over an area of many millions of miles. It produces its boundless energy by *fusing*, or joining together, particles of gas substances.

Scientists learned how to fuse particles of hydrogen when they perfected the H-bomb, which has produced the most terrifying man-made explosion the world has ever known. Now scientists in the United States and Britain are making progress in harnessing the energy released by a hydrogen explosion for the benefit of mankind. Successful tests have been made in which hydrogen particles were joined together to release energy.

Scientists say it may take a number of years before hydrogen power can be effectively harnessed to produce electricity and to perform other tasks for us. For one thing, it takes temperatures hotter than those found in the center of the sun to light a "hydrogen fire" that produces energy on a controlled basis. Also, devices must be perfected to keep the terrific heat needed for the fusion of hydrogen particles under control.

When hydrogen energy is successfully harnessed for peacetime purposes, scientists say it will provide mankind with an almost unlimited source of power. The material used to produce this type of power can be found in abundance in ocean water.

Troubled Neighbors

When Venezuela's President Marcos Pérez Jiménez was overthrown not long ago (see page 1 story on Venezuela), he became the ninth Latin American leader in less than 4 years to be forced out of office or assassinated. Here are some earlier upheavals in lands to the south of us:

June 1954—Pro-communist President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman of Guatemala was overthrown in a 12-day civil war.

August 1954—A military group demanded the resignation of Brazilian President Getulio Vargas. After agreeing to take a "leave of absence," he committed suicide.

January 1955—President José Antonio Remón of Panama was assassinated.

September 1955—President Juan Perón of Argentina was ousted from power after some 10 years of dictatorial rule.

September 1956—Nicaragua's President Anastasio Somoza was assassinated. He was succeeded by his son, Luis, who is still President of that country.

December 1956—President Paul Magloire of Haiti was forced out of office when he tried to stay in power after his regular term had ended.

May 1957—Gustavo Rojas Pinilla was ousted as President of Colombia.

July 1957—President Carlos Castillo Armas of Guatemala, who had established a record as a staunch foe of communism, was assassinated.

Making Progress

The United States and Russia have thus far been unable to agree on global disarmament, the future of divided Germany, and other issues. But the 2 countries are getting along surprisingly well in another field—in the ex-



NEW VERSION of the abacus, man's oldest calculating machine, is demonstrated by its inventor, Oscar Seidenberg, in a Washington school. He developed it from an ancient counting device still used widely in stores of Russia and many other lands for totaling sums, in place of a cash register. The Washington, D. C., man thinks his invention will interest children in arithmetic.

change of ideas, visitors, and related matters.

Not long ago, American and Soviet officials agreed on plans for an exchange of movies, television and radio programs, as well as scientists, college students, and entertainers. The new agreement provides for the largest number of exchange programs between America and the Soviet Union since before World War II.

Plans call for an exchange of 20 college students this fall, and 30 more next year. The students will stay in the host country for a year of study. A number of college professors, scientists, and other specialists will also travel back and forth for study tours under the new program.

In addition, Russia's world-famous Bolshoi Ballet troupe will visit the United States this summer in exchange for appearances in the Soviet Union of our Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra. The 2 nations will also exchange a larger number of musicians, singers, and sports figures than in the past.

We asked Moscow for an exchange of radio and TV broadcasts in which world affairs are discussed. The Soviets agreed to this idea "in principle," but they say each program must first be approved by them before it will be put on the air in Russia. The extent to which Moscow will carry out this and other exchange agreements remains to be seen.

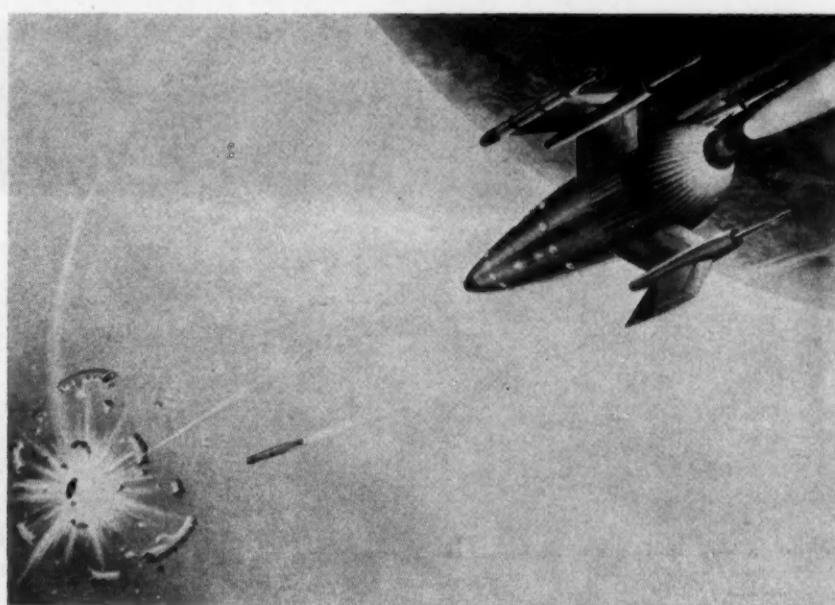
New Probe

Six government agencies which regulate a variety of commercial and business activities are now being investigated by a congressional group headed by Democratic Representative Oren Harris of Arkansas. The probe is likely to make headline news for some weeks to come.

The Harris committee is checking into charges that certain officials of the 6 agencies are guilty of "misconduct." One of the charges against the accused individuals is that they secured special privileges for a few firms with which they have had official dealings, in return for gifts.

Here are the agencies involved in the congressional probe:

Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB). This agency regulates the activities



UP
WAR IN SPACE. The day may come—according to an article in current issue of *Mechanix Illustrated*—when space ships can seek out and destroy enemy satellites.

of domestic airlines at home as well as their overseas operations.

Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). It supervises various types of transportation systems, such as trains, trucks, and buses, which carry passengers or goods across state lines.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). It enforces laws governing certain financial transactions, such as the sale and purchase of business shares.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC). It seeks to prevent unfair business practices and misleading advertising by commercial firms.

Federal Power Commission (FPC). It regulates the activities of electric and natural gas firms which operate in more than one state.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It supervises the activities of radio, television, and other communications industries.

Ambassadors at Work

Not long ago, our ambassador to Moscow, Llewellyn Thompson, returned home for talks with top government officials. Among other things, Mr. Thompson gave his views on what steps Uncle Sam should take to help insure the success of proposed top-level

talks between western and Soviet leaders.

Helping to make arrangements for important international conferences is only one of the many tasks performed by our overseas ambassadors. They also act as the eyes and ears of our government abroad; serve as America's official spokesmen at state functions in other lands; look after the interests of Americans traveling abroad; and handle United States business affairs in foreign countries.

Each of our ambassadors has a staff of men and women to help him with his duties. There are some 250 such employees at work in Paris, 137 in London, 158 in Rome, and around 50 in Moscow. In addition, the ambassador has up to 1,000 or more American military and economic experts, plus nationals of the country in which he is stationed, to assist him.

Salaries of ambassadors vary, depending upon the importance of the post and other factors. The top pay for envoys in such leading world capitals as London, Paris, and Moscow is \$27,500 a year. Ambassadors also get an allowance to help pay for official entertainment.

Know Your Congress

What is meant by the "seniority system" of selecting members and chairmen of congressional committees?

Senators and representatives who have had the longest continuous service are given their choice of committee posts. On this basis of "seniority," the party in control of each legislative branch selects the majority of members and the chairman of every committee. The other party has a minority on each committee, and these persons are also selected on the basis of how long they have served continuously in the House or Senate.

What is "senatorial courtesy"?

This term applies to consideration by the Senate of Presidential appointments. It means that if a senator objects to the White House appointment of someone from the lawmaker's home state, the Senate will not confirm the nominee. But in order for "senatorial courtesy" to apply, the objecting senator must be a member of the President's party.

This and That

Baghdad Pact countries, in their recent meeting at Ankara, Turkey, agreed to set up a combined military command comparable to that of the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Turkey's General Ekrem Akalin has been named to head the new defense command.

Members of the defense group, which includes Britain, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Turkey, have also agreed on long-range plans for building air bases and a network of communications in the area between the Mediterranean and Arabian Seas.

The United States is not a full member of the Baghdad Pact, but it cooperates closely with that group.

Congress is now debating a White House proposal to lift certain restrictions on the exchange of military atomic information between the United States and its allies. At present, our laws prevent an exchange of data on nuclear weapons with our overseas friends.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is launching a new probe into the nation's foreign policies over the past few years. The group plans to check into all phases of our overseas programs, including the value of proposed top-level talks between American and Soviet leaders.

New Store in Iran

Citizens of Tehran, capital of Iran, are excited about their city's new store. The first department store in Tehran opened for business a few weeks ago. Policemen were needed to control the crowds that rushed into the four-story building.

The new store is unusual for Iranians. They are accustomed to shopping in bazaars, where they walk from stall to stall and bargain with merchants for lower prices.

In the department store, however, wares are arranged in neat displays. Prices are marked on goods, and no amount of bargaining is likely to change them.

The store, like many in our country, sells nearly everything needed for the home—including furniture and groceries.

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week we shall devote a large part of the paper to Antarctica and the explorations that are going on down there.

AMERICAN OBSERVER

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THE LIGHTER SIDE

Teacher to weatherman's son: What are 2 and 2?
Weatherman's son: Four . . . Possibly.

★

"Do girls like conceited boys better than the other kind?"
"What other kind?"



"It's not as fast, but just watch my score next spring!"

A medical journal reports that man is slightly taller in the morning than he is in the evening. We have never tested this theory, but we have certainly noticed a tendency to become a little short toward the end of the month.

★

Tom: You college men seem to take life pretty easy.
Andy: Yes, even when we graduate we do it by degrees.

★

A small boy was unhappily practicing his piano lesson when a door-to-door salesman stuck his head in the door.

"Son, is your mother home?"
"What do you think?" answered the boy.

★

"When I pass through the room where the typists work, it's like a piece of uranium approaching a battery of Geiger counters," the office manager told a friend.

"What do you mean?"
"The closer I get, the faster they click."

★

By studying diligently from the age of 18 to 80, a person can learn about half as much as he thought he knew at 16.

Political Setups

(Continued from page 1)

lieves should be adopted. He may not be able to carry out existing laws in the way he desires, since Congress has the "power of the purse." It can grant or withhold money sought by the President.

On the other hand, Congress needs the cooperation of the President. If the lawmakers enact a bill which the Chief Executive opposes, he can use his veto power to keep it from becoming law. Once a bill is vetoed, it can be rescued only if passed again in each house by a two-thirds majority. In most cases, such a majority is hard to obtain.

It is easy to see how hostility between Congress and the President may slow up—or even deadlock—the normal processes of government. This can occur even when the President's own party holds House and Senate majorities. It is even more likely when at least 1 house is controlled by a party different from that of the President. This latter kind of situation has existed during 13 of the last 50 years.

Republican President Eisenhower has faced Democratic majorities in both houses since the 1954 election. (As we go to press, Democrats control the Senate 49-47. They have a 233-197 majority in the House, with 5 vacancies.) But most observers agree that "divided control" between Congress and the White House has caused less trouble for Eisenhower than for some earlier Chief Executives.

Democratic President Woodrow Wilson had a GOP Congress in the latter part of his administration, and this resulted in a virtual deadlock on the important issues of the day.

During the last two years that Republican President Herbert Hoover occupied the White House, Democrats held a majority in the House of Representatives. There was a stalemate, even though America faced grave problems because of a depression.

Great Britain, as we have noted, manages to avoid such deadlocks. So do various other Commonwealth of Nations members, such as Canada and Australia. Here is how the British parliamentary system works:

Britain's principal lawmaking body is the House of Commons. Another branch of Parliament—the House of Lords—can delay legislation but cannot block it entirely.

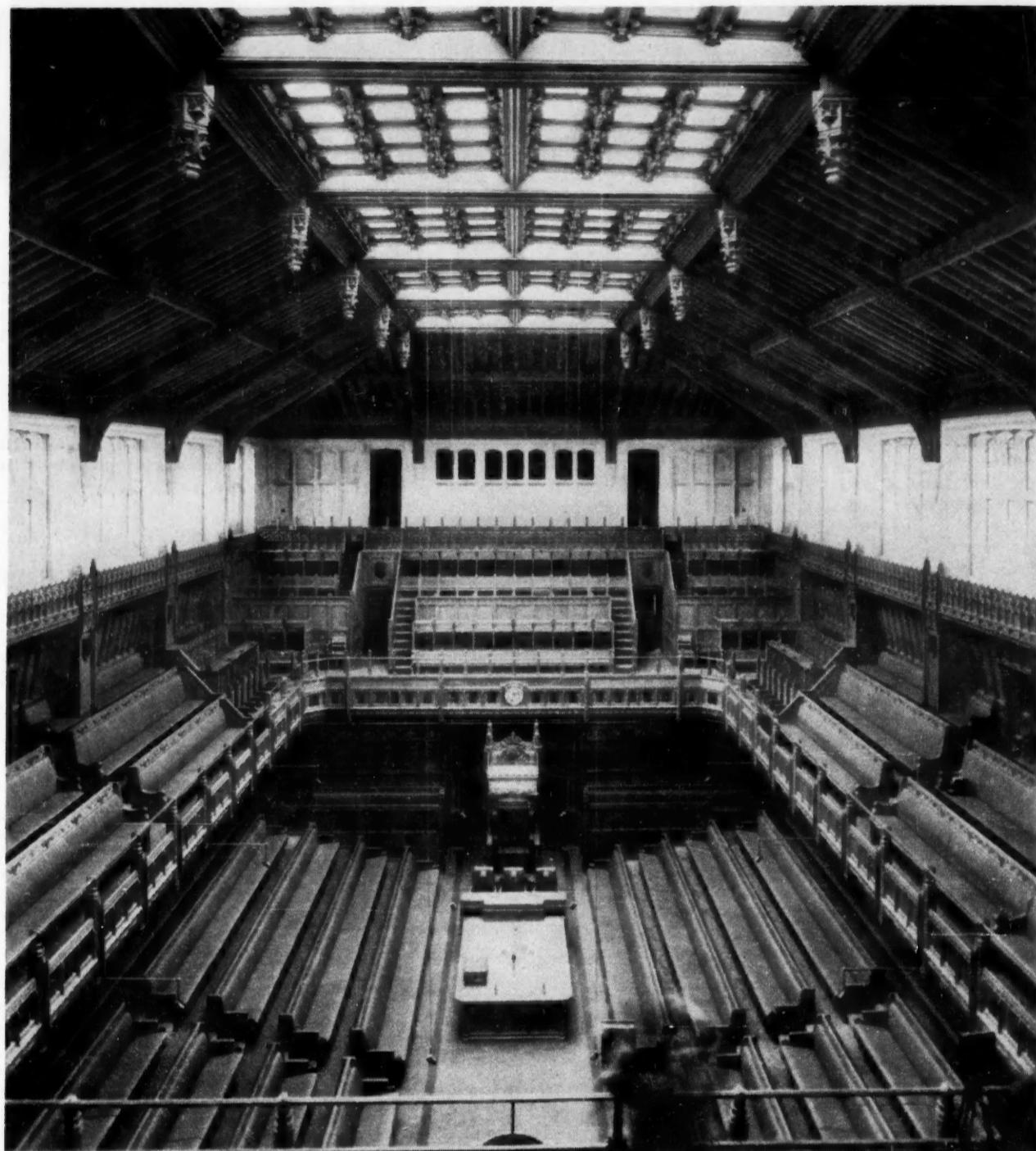
House of Commons members are chosen directly by the people, as are the U. S. representatives in our own country. After an election, the head of the majority party in Commons becomes Prime Minister. He is the chief executive officer of the nation—Britain's nearest equivalent to the American President.

When a major disagreement arises between the Prime Minister and the House of Commons, the Prime Minister can choose 1 of 2 courses. If he feels that the nation's voters would side with the lawmakers, he ordinarily resigns and is replaced by someone with stronger political backing.

If he believes that the people are on his side, however, he can ask the Queen to dissolve the House. With this request granted, a new election is held at once.

Thus, in one way or another, a quick political showdown occurs—and a stalemate is avoided.

Parliamentary elections in Britain



HOUSE OF COMMONS, British lawmaking body. Members of party in power sit at left, the opposition at right.

are supposed to be held at least once every 5 years, but they can occur at almost any time. However, that country has a reputation for political stability. From 1945 through 1957 it had only 4 parliamentary elections, and the office of Prime Minister changed hands only 4 times during that same period.

France, another nation with a parliamentary type of government, presents a far different picture.

The French chief executive—or Premier—is nearly always forced out of office if the National Assembly (leading house of Parliament) fails to support him on a major issue. The French constitution makes it difficult for a Premier to dissolve the Assembly and call a new election. Therefore, lawmakers don't hesitate to turn against him.

This is one reason why the office of French Premier changes hands so often. Another is that France, unlike the United States or Britain, has about 10 influential political parties along with some smaller groups. To hold majority support in the Assembly, the Premier must depend on a combination—or *coalition*—of several parties. But the various groups do so much squabbling that it is seldom possible to hold a coalition together very long.

As a result, there have been 19 res-

ignations by French Premiers since the end of 1946.

Most Americans regard the French government as unsatisfactory and chaotic. Certain French spokesmen, though, argue that their setup is not really so bad as it may appear.

"While Premiers and their cabinets rise and fall," it is pointed out, "permanent officers and employees below cabinet rank keep the wheels of government turning. In some cases, too, a political leader will continue to hold the same position in one cabinet after another. The post of French Foreign Minister, for example, seldom changes hands."

No one denies, however, that political instability makes it very difficult for France to reach decisions on major questions of national or world concern.

Elsewhere. Most western European democracies and members of the Commonwealth of Nations use the parliamentary system. It is also found in certain other countries, such as Japan.

Among these lands, the system works in many different ways. Governments in the Scandinavian countries, for example, are quite stable—resembling that of Britain. Italy, like France, has a number of political parties. Her government appears to operate somewhat more smoothly than the French, but less so than the British.

Many Latin American countries, meanwhile, have constitutions patterned after our own. The common practice for these nations is to have congressmen and Presidents, elected for definite terms of years.

Quite often, though, Latin American legislative bodies find it necessary to step into the picture when Presidents are being elected. This year, Guatemala's Congress has faced the task of choosing the winner in a Presidential contest, because none of the 3 candidates won a clear majority in the nation-wide balloting which occurred on January 19.

(In our own country, if no Presidential candidate wins a clear majority of electoral votes, the House of Representatives must choose from among the 3 leading contenders. This has not been necessary in recent times, though.)

In brief, the democratic nations of the world have found many different ways of running their governments. The method that satisfies one country may not be at all suitable for another.

Controversy. From time to time, it has been argued that the United States should adopt the parliamentary system—or, at least, certain features of it. Lawmakers occasionally have sought Constitutional amendments on the subject. But their proposals have never received much backing. Most

Americans seem to prefer the setup that we have today. In support of this present arrangement, the following arguments can be given:

"Actually, there is seldom a complete deadlock under our system. The President and the lawmakers know that they can't change the political line-up until election time, so they generally make compromises and try to work together. In the long run, this produces a more stable government than if we had special elections or new Chief Executives every time the legislative and executive branches of the government seriously disagreed.

"Congressmen and the President can always seek support from the public. If the people become aroused over an important issue, they can secure action by means other than voting. Letters to senators, representatives, and Administration officials carry much influence.

"Lengthy debate over important measures is likely to produce sound laws. In general, it is better to legislate too slowly than too rapidly.

"Some parliamentary systems—those in Britain and Canada, for instance—operate very well. Others, as in France, do not—at least from the American viewpoint. If we tried suddenly to adopt a parliamentary arrangement, it might not work so well as do those which Britain and Canada have developed over long periods of years.

"Constitutional patterns that succeed in some countries often fail in others. The system we use today is the one under which America has become strong and prosperous. It fits our needs better than any other arrangement would."

Meanwhile, people who feel that a parliamentary setup would serve us better than the present one argue:

"It isn't likely that a parliamentary arrangement in America would bring the same results it has produced in France. The latter country's main trouble is her 10 or more political parties. Our own nation has only 2 major parties. This general situation would be likely to endure even if the type of government were changed.

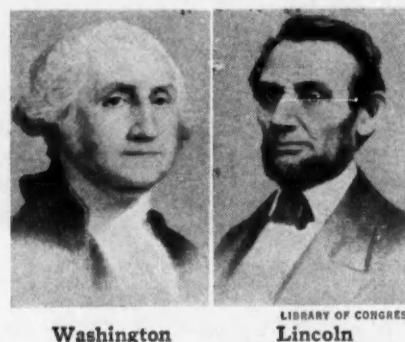
"The parliamentary plan would make Congress and the President pay very close attention to public opinion. If both knew that elections might be held at any time, they would be extremely careful to respect the wishes of the people.

"A parliamentary setup, such as Britain's, permits a quick decision on any major issue that becomes a cause of friction or deadlock within the government. When a conflict arises, the side that loses popular support is removed from power.

"Democrats claim that dissatisfaction with the present defense program has caused many Americans to lose confidence in President Eisenhower. Republicans deny the charge. Nobody can be sure of what the situation really is. But—with a parliamentary arrangement—the defense issue might well cause an election, and then there would be a definite answer.

"In most of our elections, we have so many issues that it is hard to determine how the voters feel about any single question. Under a parliamentary system, there can be special elections to deal with specific problems."

These are among the existing views on the parliamentary type of government, and on how well—or how poorly—a system of this kind might work in our own country.—By TOM MYER



Great Americans

By Clay Coss

IT is always inspiring to review the lives of those two great Americans—George Washington and Abraham Lincoln—whose birthdays we celebrate this month.

Washington fell heir to his Mt. Vernon estate in Virginia when he was a young man. Nothing pleased him more than to ride horseback or do various kinds of work on his estate. If his own desires had been all that counted, he would never have left his Virginia home for any length of time.

Yet, when his countrymen called him, Washington turned his back on this comfortable existence. As Commander in Chief of the American Army during the revolution, he pursued the war through eight long years.

Hardly had he returned to Mt. Vernon when he was called upon to become the nation's first President. He spent eight more years in the service of his country before he could return to his beloved home.

Throughout history, selfless men

have sacrificed their own pleasures to serve their country. There is no finer example of such sacrifice than that provided by Washington.

Lincoln's upbringing was on the frontier. In Kentucky, where he was born, and in Illinois, where he later moved, young Abe Lincoln had little formal schooling. On the frontier there was scant opportunity—or desire—for book learning. Recalling his young days, Lincoln once said: "There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education."

Nevertheless, even in this discouraging environment, Lincoln had a strong determination to learn. He pored over the few good books that came into his hands, and did a great deal of thinking about the ideas which were contained in their pages. He worked out arithmetic problems with charcoal on a slab of wood which he then shaved clean.

How well this frontier youth educated himself is evident. Not only did he become one of our greatest Presidents, but in the Gettysburg Address he created one of the finest products of American literature.

Throughout history, men have risen from humble surroundings to greatness. Lincoln is the prime example of one who overcame such handicaps to achieve fame.

The lives of these two great Americans offer inspiration to all. Lincoln's burning desire to get an education should encourage young people to make the most of their educational opportunities—opportunities that far surpass anything Lincoln ever dreamed of. Washington's life should be a constant reminder to all that one of the finest services we can perform is to sacrifice some of our own pleasures for the good of our fellow men.

Our Readers Say—

It seems that the United States is going wild over science and is turning her back on something very important—art. Why don't we do something drastic about music, art, and drama? Why not bring out the abilities of those gifted in these fields, as well as those gifted in science?

CAROL HINTON,
Akron, Ohio

The suggestion of governmental aid in the line of scholarships is an excellent idea. There are numerous students with capable minds who never get a chance.

JO ABHAU,
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Ever since Russia launched her first earth satellite, there has been a ponderous number of articles in the daily papers about the science race, and how Russia is beating us in it. People seem to forget that there is another type of science—the science of keeping the common man alive.

You never see mentioned any more how far ahead we are in medicine and other items that aid the average person. Why don't we stress these things more, instead of those which eventually may lead to the destruction of man?

ELMER MARQUARD,
Wickliffe, Ohio

It disgusts me terribly to hear gangsters and racketeers falling back on the 5th Amendment to escape punishments they deserve. It seems to me that the people should bring pressure on Congress to change this amendment so that it would retain its meaning but would prevent gangsters from invoking it to evade punishment.

RICHARD HOPKINS,
Nunda, New York

Some motive must be set to inspire high school students to finish their education. Why couldn't we set a restriction on the right to vote, requiring all young

men and women to have a high school graduation certificate before they are allowed at the polls?

CHARLEY HUFFINE,
Seattle, Washington

There seem to be 3 main reasons why taxes should not be raised to bolster our missile and satellite program:

(1) Interservice rivalry has wasted time and money. If a unified program could be developed many dollars could be saved.

(2) There has been incompetent leadership and too much red tape in putting programs through. I think a shake-up is due.

(3) The country's financial condition is getting to the point where waste must be prevented.

JOHN EFFERDING,
Dubuque, Iowa

(Address your letters to: Readers Say, AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)



Answers to Your Vocabulary

- (b) irregular, abnormal; 2. (a) rural, rustic; 3. (b) pretended; 4. (c) one who attacks the beliefs of others; 5. (b) taking away; 6. (c) disbeliever; 7. (b) placed side by side.

Monthly Test

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This test covers issues of the AMERICAN OBSERVER dated January 13, 20, 27, and February 3. The answer key appears in the February 10 issue of the *Civic Leader*. Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS: In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. The population of the United States is now about (a) 173,000,000; (b) 152,000,000; (c) 136,000,000; (d) 197,000,000.

2. A notable population trend in the United States between 1950 and 1956 was the large movement of people (a) from cities to farms; (b) from cities to suburbs; (c) from suburbs to cities; (d) to other countries.

3. The Soviet Union has recently insisted that UN disarmament negotiations be participated in by (a) Red China and Outer Mongolia; (b) the United States and the Soviet Union only; (c) UN Security Council members only; (d) all 82 UN member nations.

4. To make U. S. defense planning more efficient, consideration is being given to (a) appointing all new chiefs of the armed services; (b) placing one chief over all U. S. armed forces; (c) removing civilian control over the Defense Department; (d) tripling the defense budget.

5. Egyptian leaders think their best chance of improving Egypt's living standards is by (a) completion of the high Aswan Dam; (b) receiving a loan requested from the United States; (c) discovery of oil deposits; (d) development of the nation's coal resources.

6. It was agreed at the recent Paris meeting of NATO leaders to (a) admit Spain to NATO; (b) withdraw NATO forces from West Germany; (c) confer with Russia over possible arms reductions; (d) double NATO's land forces in the next 2 years.

7. President Eisenhower's proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1958, totals about (a) 98 billion dollars; (b) 51 billion; (c) 33 billion; (d) 74 billion.

8. Nearly two-thirds of the proposed U. S. budget would be spent for (a) aid to education and farmers; (b) payments to the national debt; (c) national security; (d) benefits to veterans.

9. The recent election of a pro-communist mayor in its capital city of Naha threatens important U. S. military bases on the island of (a) Taiwan; (b) Iceland; (c) Hong Kong; (d) Okinawa.

10. A major part of the 4-year aid-to-education program proposed by the Eisenhower Administration calls for (a) construction of 1,000,000 new classrooms; (b) 10,000 college scholarships for each of the next 4 years; (c) publication of new science texts by the federal government; (d) a "crash program" to develop 5,000 scientists.

11. A new federation of British territories has recently been formed in the area of (a) South Africa; (b) the Caribbean Sea; (c) the South Pacific; (d) the Middle East.

12. A serious breakdown in Indonesia's economic life followed that country's (a) 6-months drought; (b) acceptance of Russian aid; (c) seizure of many Dutch-owned businesses; (d) expulsion of British businessmen.

13. Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, and Britain are allied in the (a) Baghdad Pact; (b) Commonwealth of Nations; (c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization; (d) Warsaw Pact.

14. Average income in communist China is (a) comparable to that in England; (b) about the same as in the United States; (c) among the lowest in the world; (d) increasing rapidly.

(Concluded on page 8)

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

15. In the late months of 1957 and thus far in 1958, U. S. business has (a) suffered a slump; (b) fallen off disastrously; (c) continued a steady climb to greater prosperity; (d) improved greatly.

16. The average income per person in the United States in 1957, after deduction of taxes, was about (a) \$1,250; (b) \$4,250; (c) \$800; (d) \$1,750.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the questions.

17. The entire membership of the U. S. is up for election in the fall of 1958.

18. The Suez Canal is now being operated by the government of _____.

19. Extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act by Congress would give the President power to change U. S. during the next 5 years.

20. For some time now, the section of the United States has led other geographic sections in population growth.

21. The largest single source of funds for the federal government is taxes on individual _____.

22. When a new bill is presented in Congress, it is given an identifying number and referred for full study to a _____.

23. In conducting foreign relations, the President has more power than any other individual, but he delegates many of his duties to the _____.

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

24. Gamal Abdel Nasser

25. Lyndon Johnson

26. Mao Tse-tung

27. Chiang Kai-shek

28. Nathan Twining

A. Top official of Red China

B. President of Egypt

C. Chairman of U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

D. U. S. Secretary of Defense

E. Senate Majority Leader

F. President of Nationalist China

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter preceding the word or phrase that makes the best definition of the word in italics.

29. The new treaty made little change in the *status quo*. (a) plans for the future; (b) tiny independent state; (c) existing state of affairs; (d) country's financial condition.

30. The government faces a *dilemma* in deciding what course to follow. (a) difficult choice; (b) simple problem; (c) great deal of criticism; (d) an entirely new situation.

31. The jury evidently thought the lawyer's arguments *untenable*. (a) strong; (b) well presented; (c) much too long; (d) indefensible.

32. The historian pointed out flaws in the communist *ideology*. (a) encyclopedia; (b) history texts; (c) doctrine, or ideas; (d) money system.

33. The senator said the law was *archaic*. (a) praiseworthy; (b) outdated; (c) unconstitutional; (d) valuable.



DRAWN BY RALPH FAULKNER

SIGNING of Magna Carta by King John was landmark in growth of democracy

Historical Background

Highlights in the Development of Democracy

THOUGH the government setup in our country is different from the parliamentary system practiced in Britain and certain other lands (see article on page 1), democracy is the solid foundation on which both kinds of government are based.

In its narrowest sense, democracy means *rule by the people*. But to many it has come to mean far more.

When we speak of democracy, numerous ideas run through our minds. Among them are the right of men and women to vote; the right of citizens to be equal before the law regardless of race, creed, or color; and the right of our people to hold different opinions, practice different religions, and belong to different political parties.

It has taken many years for democracy to achieve its present, broad meaning. Here are some of the highlights in democracy's development:

Greek city-states—Democracy developed to a considerable degree in the ancient city-states of Greece. For example, by 400 B.C. in Athens, every citizen had the right to vote.

But there were serious weaknesses in this early type of democracy. Slavery was practiced. Women were not allowed to become citizens.

Magna Carta—A great landmark in democracy's growth was the Magna Carta (Latin for *Great Charter*). It was signed by King John of England in 1215 upon the insistence of discontented knights and barons.

The Charter established the right of an accused person to a fair trial, and forbade the collection of taxes without the consent of the knights and barons. But it left the latter free to tax the tenants on their great estates.

Bill of Rights—Democracy received further impetus through England's Bill of Rights of 1689.

Up to that time, kings had tried frequently to assert their power and to check representative, democratic rule. But, by the Bill of Rights, the British parliament established the principle that it was superior to kings. At the same time, the lawmaking body was to rule only with the voters' consent.

Declaration of Independence—One of the most cherished documents in

American history, it sets forth the idea that "all men are created equal" and that they possess the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 to justify America's independence from its mother country, the Declaration of Independence is one of the great documents of democracy.

French Revolution—In a conflict which began in 1789, the French people overthrew a government under which all kinds of inequalities had flourished. Though the struggle was accompanied by terrorism and excessive bloodshed, it was an event which powerfully influenced the spread of democracy. It established equality of all men in the eyes of the law.

U. S. Constitution—This great document, drawn up in 1787, placed numerous restrictions on the government's power to encroach on individual liberties. Later, various amendments spelled out such safeguards as freedom of speech, press, and religion.

The 19th Amendment, adopted in 1920, gave women the right to vote, thereby expanding the base of American democracy.

What is democracy's future?—This form of government has been under attack from the time of the Greek city-states, but it has survived every onslaught. Today communism is posing the main threat. Soviet boss Nikita Khrushchev has predicted that communism will crush democracy because (according to Khrushchev) communism is a newer system.

The fact is, of course, that communism is not a newer system. Though it is appearing today under a slightly different garb, it is basically the same tyranny that has challenged democracy for years.

Communism—like absolute monarchy and fascism—stands for rule by one man or a small group, suppresses personal liberties, and glorifies the state at the expense of the individual. It has been opposition to precisely these things—together with the great human desire for freedom—that has contributed to democracy's growth. —By HOWARD SWEET

News Quiz

Parliamentary System

1. Though there are various kinds of democratic governments, what essential point do they all have in common?

2. Briefly describe the check-and-balance system in our own government, and tell why it was created.

3. Name some Presidents who have faced Congresses in which at least 1 house was controlled by the opposition party.

4. Tell briefly how the parliamentary system operates in Britain.

5. Give 2 reasons why the office of Premier in France changes hands so often.

6. Name some countries besides Britain and France that use parliamentary systems. In what part of the world are quite a few national constitutions patterned after our own?

7. Give arguments of people who feel that the United States is better off with its present system than if it had a parliamentary government.

8. Present some arguments of those who think a parliamentary arrangement would be better.

Discussion

1. Do you believe it would be wise or unwise for the United States to adopt a parliamentary type of government? Why?

2. If you lived in Britain or Canada, do you think you would want your country to adopt a system patterned after that of the United States? Give reasons for your answer.

Venezuela

1. Name the recently deposed dictator of Venezuela, and tell when and how he gained the presidency.

2. Briefly tell why the United States has a great interest in having sound government in the South American land.

3. Who heads the Venezuelan government now, and what plans have been made toward establishing democracy?

4. What dangers exist that could upset the growth of free government?

5. Give a short summary of the history of Venezuela and its life under dictators.

6. Describe some of the public works programs carried out by the deposed dictator.

7. How does the outward look of prosperity, which a stranger may notice in Venezuelan cities, compare with the actual situation of most of the people?

8. Tell a bit about the population and geography of the Latin American country.

Discussion

1. Do you believe the Venezuelan people have a good chance of building democratic government now? Why, or why not?

2. Should the United States strongly show its readiness to help the present government, or should we let Venezuelans work out their own problems? Give reasons for your answer.

Miscellaneous

1. Why are leaders in a number of countries concerned about the Egyptian-Syrian efforts to form a union?

2. Explain how the "seniority system" operates in selecting members and chairmen of congressional committees.

3. Name some Latin American countries, in addition to Venezuela, in which rulers have been overthrown or assassinated within recent years.

4. What are the chief duties of our overseas ambassadors?

5. In what field is the United States and Russia making progress toward friendly cooperation?

6. Briefly describe some of the important landmarks in the growth of world democracy over the centuries.

Reference

"Venezuela: The Lesson," *Time*, February 3. With a list of fallen dictators in Latin America.